

Randolph Firefighters Local 1268

AFFILIATED WITH
NTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

AND

PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS OF MASSAHCUSETTS



November 11, 2008

Veteran's Day weekend of 2005 Randolph Firefighters Local 1268 began an association with the registered non-profit charity Cell Phones for Soldiers.

A then twelve and thirteen year old brother and sister from Norwell, MA established Cell Phones for Soldiers in 2004. Their idea was born from a story of a local soldier who had incurred over \$7000 in cell phone bills calling home from overseas. Their goal is to provide a means for US troops to call their families at no cost. Their mission is to recycle unwanted cell phones and use the proceeds to purchase calling cards and fulfill this goal.

By chance our members came across the story of this charity and started out own grassroots effort requesting cell phone donations from any Department. The results have been humbling. In three years, largely by word of mouth, many Departments, businesses and citizens have dropped off over 2800 unwanted cell phones and accessories at Central Station. This translates into over \$14,000 in pre paid calling cards for our military personnel serving overseas.

The recycling industry estimates Americans will turnover approximately 130 million cell phones a year. Cell Phones for Soldiers estimates it will contribute 12 million minutes of talk time this year alone. Randolph Firefighters are extremely proud to play a small role in supporting our troops in this effort.

We are again asking all Departments to consider this charity during these holidays and would greatly appreciate donations of any make or model cell phone, cell phone battery, pager, charger, PDA or accessory in <u>any</u> condition as well as ink jet cartridges. Our personal goal is to reach 3000 cell phones by years end.

As a postscript to this request we would like to take the opportunity to distribute phone cards to any town employee or relative of an employee currently serving in the armed forces. We have a limited number of cards available for families wishing to keep in touch with their loved one during this holiday season.

Thank you for your time and generosity to this successful and worthwhile cause.

www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com

Patrick Connors Randolph Firefighters Local 1268